

NSC BRIEFING

19 June 1957

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PEIPING RELEASES TEXT OF SOVIET MAC SPEECH

- I. The official text of Mao's 13 February speech lacks the anti-Soviet overtones which appeared in the unauthorized excerpts circulating in East Europe and the Free World.
 - A. However, Peiping admits that the official text has been edited, probably in an effort to preserve intra-bloc harmony.
- II. As the unauthorized excerpts had indicated, liberalization was the main emphasis of the speech.
 - A. For instance, Mao reaffirmed the "hundred flowers" policy and called for persuasion rather than terror in resolving domestic issues.
- III. Nevertheless, the edited text is generally orthodox Communist doctrine.
 - A. Mao made clear that enlarging the area of permissible criticism did not mean toleration of those who "deliberately put forward unreasonable demands."
 - B. Mao accepted Moscow's view that last fall's events in Hungary were largely caused by "domestic and foreign counterrevolutionaries."
 - C. He justified past terrors in Communist China.
 - D. While urging that the Chinese learn from all countries, he declared that the "main thing is still to learn from the Soviet Union."

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- IV. The speech threw some light on popular morale in China.
- A. Mao admitted there had been student and worker strikes last year.
 - B. There had also been some "disturbances" among the peasants.
 - C. He complained that "Marxism, once all the rage, is not so much the fashion now" among students.
 - D. Some intellectuals were also reluctant to accept Marxism-Leninism.
- V. Despite Mao's disclaimer that his formulations are necessarily applicable to all Communist states, the speech will add to Peking's growing importance as a source of Communist doctrine.
- A. This importance was underscored last December, when the Chinese put forward their views on the rules of conduct that should govern relations among Communist states and parties.
 - B. The speech now presents the bloc with an equally authoritative Chinese doctrinal pronouncement on domestic policy.